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DOD & NRO REVIEWS COMPLETED

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Cy:

I have reviewed and am forwarding for consideration by you and such representatives as you care to designate a new proposed draft of an agreement to govern our relations on the NRO.

The details of this proposed agreement obviously may require modification and adjustment as a result of further examination and discussion. However, I think it may be helpful to summarize very briefly the basic principles which, I believe, should apply. These principles have emerged as a result of the very constructive conversations which we have had together on the subject and of my own examination of the problems of the NRO since my arrival in Washington.

These principles include:

a. The necessity for the existence of an Executive Committee consisting of the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the DCI to provide policy guidance and supervision and to allocate responsibilities under the program as a whole. Adopting a recommendation made by the Secretary of Defense at our meeting in April, I propose that the President's Special Assistant for Science and Technology join the committee when research and development matters are discussed.

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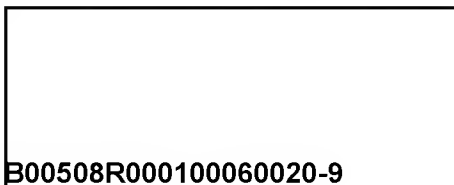


b. I believe that the DCI, in order to be responsive to USIB requirements, should maintain the responsibility of providing specific program guidance to ensure optimum exploitation of satellite reconnaissance missions for intelligence purposes. Accordingly, it is believed that the function and basic personnel presently incorporated in the present Satellite Operations Center should return to CIA. In keeping with the purpose of this office and in order to avoid misunderstanding of its nature and purpose, I suggest that the center be renamed the Satellite Reconnaissance Programming Office.

c. The potentialities of all agencies of the Government for the design and invention of new concepts and techniques for the acquisition of intelligence through overhead reconnaissance should be encouraged and exploited to the maximum. Accordingly provision should be made to ensure that funds are allocated in an amount sufficient and in a manner appropriate to ensure the realization of this objective.

d. The engineering development, testing and production of new systems is normally the responsibility of contracting firms responsible for the design of these systems. Supervision of these contractors should logically be undertaken by the agency with the best facilities and established competence and experience in dealing with these contractors. Moreover, it would seem to me that an important factor in selecting the agency to be responsible for the development and production of new systems would be the degree to which a given agency has a primary interest in the product or performance of a given system. I believe that consideration should be given to taking maximum advantage of the existing facilities of departments and agencies for systems development and production. This appears to be quite in keeping with

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emphasis which the Secretary of Defense has placed upon the need for economy in the utilization of personnel and resources. It is important that the option to utilize the resources, experience, and competence of existing line organizations, including CIA, should be kept open where, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, these appear to be particularly suitable for optimum system development.

One final consideration worth mentioning is that, to a large extent, programs of the NRP are financed with confidential funds expended under the authority of the DCI under Public Law 110. I would hope, therefore, that suitable provision can be made to safeguard my obligation for ensuring appropriate control and accounting for these funds.

I am asking Messrs. Bross and [REDACTED] to meet with your representatives to discuss specific provisions of the attached draft and recommend such changes as seem appropriate. I know that we are in complete agreement concerning both the objectives and the importance of this program, and I believe that we should have no difficulty in reaching agreement concerning the best arrangements and organization for carrying it out.

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Sincerely,

W. F. Raborn
Director

Attachment

JABROSS: [REDACTED] (15/7/65)

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